

## U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)

### PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION “HOT ISSUES” INFORMATION PAPER

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**SUBJECT:** *GSA National Firearms Program*

#### 1. **BACKGROUND:**

Since 1999 GSA has transferred excess federal firearms via GSAXcess.gov to federal agencies and state and local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) via the State Agency for Surplus Property (SASP). In response to a 2015 GSA Inspector General evaluation of the GSA National Firearms Program, GSA has implemented a standardized procedure for conducting and reporting inventories of donated firearms.

##### a. General Background:

- Program established in July 1999.
- Allows donation of surplus firearms to eligible law enforcement agencies (LEAs).
- Excess firearms become available for donation when they are no longer needed by federal agencies.
- Firearm donations require terms and conditions for transfer and are perpetually owned by the federal government.
- 30 States (including Puerto Rico) participate with approximately 650 LEAs.
- Firearms are mostly handguns, rifles and shotguns. Approximately 7106 firearms were donated and currently in the hands of state law enforcement agencies.
- When States no longer have a need for the federal firearm, they must contact GSA for transfer or destruction.
- GSA does not sell firearms nor trade in to firearm manufacturers or firearm dealers. Excess firearms not transferred are destroyed.
- Data on the donated firearms is housed in [www.GSAXcess.gov](http://www.GSAXcess.gov). Paper files are maintained in GSA PPMv (ECMS). Both systems are password protected.
- The primary contact for the program is the GSA National Firearms Program manager - Debbie Rojas Cook who resides in Denver, CO (1 FTE), with program back ups in GSA Central office and Salt Lake City, UT. Central office GSA has been instrumental in updating the firearms program in FY 2016. The Southwest - Central Zone will take over the management of the firearms program moving forward into FY 2017.
- Federal firearm donations to States have decreased in the last two years.

##### b. Issues:

- Decrease in demand for donated firearms may be due to
  - Increase in oversight of firearms and media scrutiny of donated federal firearms.
  - New technology in firearms make donated older federal firearms less desirable to law enforcement agencies.

## 2. **SCOPE AND EFFECT:**

### a. Scope:

- In FY 2017 GSA will launch its first annual electronic firearm inventory for all participating states in [www.GSAXcess](http://www.GSAXcess).
- This inventory process will give states an accurate firearm inventory of donated firearms for LEAs.
- Moving forward, firearms inventories require both electronic verification in GSAXcess and certification of the inventory submission by a senior official of the LEA.

### b. Impact:

- Well-maintained federal firearms are transferred to federal and state agencies without needing to purchase newer costly firearms.
- Firearm transfers reduce the need to destroy firearms in good condition.
- State and local law enforcement agencies benefit from the GSA National Firearms program through cost savings.
- Starting in FY 2017, SASP personnel will implement an on-site physical inventory of federal firearms.

## 3. **ACTION(S) PLANNED OR REQUIRED:**

GSA has created a data management system and a comprehensive inventory review process. GSA began the firearms inventory requirement in September 2016 by offering web-based training for the SASPs and LEAs in GSAXcess. The actual inventory should begin in October 2016 and completed by mid December 2016. GSA does not anticipate any major problems or delays. Reminders will be sent on November 14, 2016. LEA's that do not complete the FY 2017 firearm inventory will have their requests additional firearms deferred.

- Training webinars include one for the SASPs and six for the LEAs in September and October 2016
- Instructions for the firearm inventory procedures will be distributed to the SASP and LEAs before the webinars.
- GSA Area Property Officer/SASP visits to LEAs during State Reviews. This will occur through 2017.

## 4. **KEY STAKEHOLDER INTEREST:**

- a. State law enforcement agencies thereby reducing the need and cost to purchase new firearms.
- b. GSA OIG has an interest primarily with an angle toward inadvertent losses or mis-coding of transactions
- c. Congress
- d. ATF
- e. Manufacturers
- f. Policy Chiefs

**5. FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018 BUDGET IMPACT:**

Minimal budget impact is anticipated at this time. It is possible that GSA Area Property Officers may visit LEAs to physically verify firearms which may cause an increase in travel budgets. One FTE is dedicated to the GSA National Firearms Program and 4 Central Office employees that support the program. A back up employee resides in Salt Lake City, UT.